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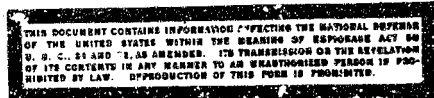
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URGE STANDARDIZATION, SCORE INEFFICIENCY
IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINE BUILDING

[Numbers in parentheses refer to the appended list of sources.]

Recent activity in agricultural machine-building has been key-noted by a campaign on the part of the ministry of Agricultural Machine-Building to standardize production. The ministry points out that many plants produce the same type of machine, in particular the self-propelled S-4 combine. Yet, the amount of labor expended in the production of these machines varies with each plant. In Kazan', 23 hours more are expended; in Krasnoyarsk, 36; in Tula 23; in Syzran', 156; and in the Zlatoust Plant (near Lenin), twice the number of hours expended at the Plant (near) Stalin.

The Stalinets-6 trailer combines are put out at present by two plants, Kommunar and Rostsel'mash. At the former, the time consumed is 109 hours more than at the latter.

The difference in time expenditure is due to differences in work organization, equipment, and techniques employed, although in the majority of cases these are not justified. For example, the 61 apertures in the self-propelled combine are stamped out in three operations at the Plant (near) Stalin, whereas in other plants they are drilled individually. Thus, the Plant (near) Stalin, in respect to this process alone, saves 5½ hours per combine. Other parts, too, are processed differently in the various machine and assembly shops. In the Kommunar Plant, for instance, the assembly of drums is done by means of a simple press designed by the plant itself, while in the Rostsel'mash the bolts are driven in by hammer. The same is true in regard to the production of five-section KUTS-4 cultivator, which is manufactured in four different plants of the ministry, and the horse-drawn BR-23 threshers, produced in two different plants. Taking the lowest production figure as 100, the index for all the other plants mentioned varies from 107 to 220.

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The Ministry has only just begun to utilize the latent reserves for higher production. To this effect, it has decreed the standardization of norms and techniques for production within the Main Administration of the Combine Industry and for the manufacture of automatic-humping IM-5 reapers, grain cleaners, and winnower-separators. But nothing has been done to date in regard to other machines. They are produced, as a rule, to the specification of individual clients, which leads to confusion in the production process. A standard list of specifications for the various types of machines must be worked by the ministry. Moreover, a system of exchange of information must be instituted among related plants, so that the experience of one will become immediately available to others. (1)

Especially poor organization of the production process is noted in the Kirovograd "Krasnaya Zvezda" Agricultural Machine-Building Plant, whose great production potentialities remain unutilized. This is one of the country's basic plants supplying agriculture with tractor and horse-drawn seeders. It has already exceeded the prewar level of production and has been meeting its norms consistently. The machines produced satisfy completely the technical requirements of present-day agriculture. However, as its director, Merkulov, admits, it could produce 11,000 seeders above plan annually but for the improper organization of supplies. The plant works at uneven tempos because of the irregularity with which it receives its raw materials, metals, and wood.

At the beginning of September, the plant found itself without 30 x 5 millimeters strip metal for the forks of the tractor seeder, which is supplied by the Makeyevka Metallurgical Plant. After repeated phone calls to the latter and a personal call to the plant by Merkulov, the Makeyevka rolled off and delivered 80 tons of metal in one day. This permitted the Krasnaya Zvezda to produce within five days the necessary parts and to turn out the seeders.

Other plants, also, fail to make proper and timely deliveries of metal. Almost all the suppliers, particularly the Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni Petrovskiy, the Dneprodzerzhinsk Plant imeni Dzerzhinskii, and the Odessa Steel-Rolling Plant imeni Dzerzhinskii in their race to meet the tonnage figures, overdeliver certain metals, which leads to waste.

In order to meet the plan at any cost, Krasnaya Zvezda is often compelled to substitute for the needed metal the metal on hand. This results in a violation of technical discipline and entails a readjustment of the machines, with the consequent loss of time and materials and increase in production costs.

The irregular flow of production at Krasnaya Zvezda is due in large measure also to the inefficiency of its own supply department. For example, in October its chief suddenly became aware of a shortage of sheet iron for tractor seeder wheels, while 80 tons of this sorely needed metal had been lying in the stores of the Konstantinovka Plant imeni Frunze, which could have delivered it on time. Moreover, 301 tons of metal had been released to other agricultural machine-building plants, which could have been used, instead, to produce 445 tractor seeders.

There is no attempt in this plant to save metal. For example, it uses 722 grams of metal for the manufacture of middle coulters, whereas the norm provides only for 700. It still makes interchangeable bushings according to the old technique, thereby losing 42 tons of metal annually. It also cases front shields according to the old method, wasting thereby 4 tons of galvanized iron annually. Altogether, during the first 9 months of 1949 the plant overexpended 625.7 tons of metal, which would have sufficed to produce 672 seeders. (2)

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In other plants, the following successes are reported:

The Plant imeni Voroshilov has met the Five-Year Plan mark for volume production. Its assembly and galvanizing shops fulfilled the October plan early and have promised, each, to put out 2,500,000 rubles' worth of equipment by the end of the year. (3)

Seven of the leading shops of the Moscow Serp i Molot Plant have been honored with the title Stakhanovite; in all of them, every worker is exceeding his norm. These are: the two toolmaking shops and the foundry, wheel, repair, miscellaneous production, and main conveyer shops. (4)

The Orgeyev Interrayon Department of "Sel'khoznab" (Agricultural Supplies) has already met the year plan for output of two-wheel farm carts (krest'yannyye khody) and continues to run its production above plan. Working capital turnover has been accelerated 36 days, 200,000 rubles have been released, and 100,000 rubles in above-plan income turned over to the state. (5)

The Permetnoye Machinery Plant has completed 33 winnowers (zernopul'ty) in excess of the third-quarter plan. Orders for these machines have been received from the Ukraine, Siberia, the Far East, the Moscow and Saratov areas, and other regions of the country. The production time for each winnower has been cut 10 percent. (6)

The Gomsel'mash Plant has begun production of a new silo-straw cutter, RS-5, designed by its own engineers, Ya. Fabrikant and M. Gavrilenko. It has also carried out successful tests on a new refrigerator, designed by Engineer P. Simanovich. Series production of this item has been approved by the state. The design department of Gomsel'mash will produce 30 new models of agricultural machines this year. (7)

The Plant imeni Budenny, Voroshilovgrad, has set up series production of new 50-horsepower motors, destined for use in MTSS and MIMs (machine tractor shops). Dozens have already been completed and sent to western areas in the Ukraine. (8)

The Gachina Machine-Moulding Plant has undertaken to produce 4,000 automatic drinking fountains for cattle and 150 centrifugal pumps for stock-raising farms in Leningrad Oblast. (9)

SOURCES

1. Trud, No 247, 19 Oct 49
2. Pravda Ukrainy, No 247, 19 Oct 49
3. Vechernyaya Moskva, No 260, 1 Nov 49
4. Trud, No 240, 11 Oct 49
5. Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 215, 25 Oct 49
6. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 209, 25 Oct 49
7. Trud, No 247, 19 Oct 49
8. Pravda Ukrainy, No 250, 22 Oct 49
9. Leningradskaya Pravda, No 239, 9 Oct 49

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